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E N G L A N D's

W A R N I N G:

OR, THE

COPY OF A LETTER,

FROM A

HANOVERIAN OFFICER, in *England*,

TO

His BROTHER, in *HANOVER*.

Coat
Found near *Canterbury* — And faithfully translated from the *German*.
1786

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W A R I N I N G :

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COPY OF A LETTER

HANOVERIAN OFFICER, in England

TO

HIS BROTHER, in HANOVER

Found near Canterbury — And faithfully translated from the German



ENGLAND's WARNING.

Dear Brother,

THIS Country abounds with Plenty of all Kinds of Provisions, and is indeed a very Paradise, but every Thing is extremely dear, occasioned by the vast Taxes which all Kinds of Persons are obliged to pay. The Light is taxed in this Kingdom, so that People pay as much Money for letting Light into a House, as we do for the Rent of it in *H*——. The common Liquor of this Country, which is excellent, is much dearer than Wine in most Parts of *G*——, occasioned by the Duty, notwithstanding it is made of Barley, which grows in vast Plenty; in Truth, tho' Riches appear in great Abundance, the Inhabitants want all of it, for the common Necessaries of Life. Poverty is no less conspicuous, by which Means there are more Beggars here than in any Place I have seen. The Wages are so small in the Country, compared to the great Price of Provision, that a Penny in *H*——, where our Taxes are so easy, will go farther than Sixpence here, where they are so heavy; wherefore Men and Women, whose best Labour is past, are obliged to beg, because their Work cannot maintain them, and live by Charity.

The Soldiers are the idlest and most blasphemous Rascals that ever lived, and their Officers a Set of Coxcombs, whose whole Conyersation is about Whores, Drinking and Gaming; they do not seem to have any Notion of a God or Religion, and I verily believe that our Troops and the *H*—— can beat the whole Army out of the Kingdom, though it is four Times our Number. — Here is no General that knows any Thing of Military Affairs except the ———. Commanding Officers are not made for Military Knowledge, but because they vote with the *M*—— in Parliament; by which Means no Man takes the least Pains to study the Art Military; and, if our General the *C*—— was not here, if the French should land,

land, and the ——— be sick, the *English* must soon be conquered; for here is no Man fit to command an Army. — I cannot help laughing to hear the People talk of their Liberty, when the severest Laws in *Europe* hang over their Heads; so that if twenty of them meet together, and do not disperse at the Command of a petty Officer, called a Justice of the Peace, they are all liable to be hanged; and they are obliged to work fifteen or sixteen Hours every Day, to get Bread for us as well as for themselves; and all their great Taxes are greatly encreasing, so that a Man can scarce put a Silver Spoon in his Mouth without paying for it; and they talk of taxing Chimnies, and putting a higher Duty on Ale; so that a poor Man or Woman will scarce be able to taste it twice a Week.

I am now cured of what I falsely imagined, the blessed Condition of these People, before I saw them. We are much happier than them, for whilst their Labour is wasted in finding Money for the Defence of *H——*, we assist them in nothing without being paid for it.

When I left *H——* I thought we were designed to protect them in Case of an Invasion from *France*, as most of the poor Souls think here at present, and are as civil as can be to us; but now I know the contrary, and that we are come on another Errand, and shall always tarry here unless *H——* be attacked, to prevent any Insurrection that may arise on the Account of so much of their Money being spent in our Defence, whilst, to say the Truth, their own Affairs are but little minded.

The common People and the Gentry are either such arrant Cowards, that the *M——* is afraid to trust Arms in their Hands, or, if they should, that they will not bear such great Taxes without attempting Redress; wherefore they dare not rely on them for the Defence of their Country, and yet they are always boasting of their Courage. I am sure if the *French* should land, the *English* would be defeated if they stood to fight at all, wherefore it's well for them that we are here to defend them.

The Women high and low are the damdest Whores in all *Europe*. Our Regiments are damnably pepper'd, so that we are more afraid of their Women than their Men.

It is impossible to express how graciously we have been received at Court, and what great Dependance there is upon the Valour of our Troops. We should have been encamp'd in a Park close to the Palace, but it was not thought proper to shew the People how much more we are esteemed than them.

Several

Several *Germans* are daily enlisting into the Guards, who are encouraged to come over on Purpose with that Design, which will insensibly habituate the Regiments to such Mixture; and none of the C—— or Officers dare to complain of it, through Fear of being instantly discarded. I believe that G—— Officers will soon be admitted, because there is one H—— already, contrary to the Laws, made Captain of a Ship of War. I hear the E—— Troops are to be ship'd off by little and little, till we shall be more numerous than them; after which, what shall hinder us from being their Masters! For it is resolved the Natives shall not have Arms.

Our Friend *Muller* expected to hear from you concerning what he wrote you, but attributes your Silence to the troublesome Affair you are so good as to undertake for him.

My Compliments at Home, and believe me ever,

Your most affectionate Brother,

*From our Camp near Canterbury,
Aug. 20, 1756.*

Herman Van Weiffel.